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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - SIX-PARTY TALKS IN BEIJING -
TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: There were no newspapers published Tuesday morning due to a press holiday. This morning's TV news shows led with a draft agreement submitted by China to other members of the six-party talks shortly after 2 a.m. Tuesday, saying that the members are likely to reach a formal deal later today on North Korea's nuclear dismantlement.

¶1. There were no immediate TV commentaries on the latest developments at the six-party talks.

¶2. "Formal Deal Expected Today at Six-Party Talks" On the Tuesday 7 a.m. news program of quasi-governmental broadcaster NHK-TV, correspondents Yui and Hioki reported from Beijing: "As A/S Hill, the chief US delegate to the talks, indicated, the last-minute demonstration of some flexibility by North Korea and compromises on the part of the other five countries were instrumental in moving the stalemated talks toward a formal deal on Pyongyang's implementation of the September 2005 joint statement, including suspending operations at Yongbyon and other nuclear facilities and accepting IAEA inspections.

"Nevertheless, there was reportedly no progress on the abduction issue at Monday's multilateral meeting and the bilateral held between Japanese chief delegate Sasae and his North Korean counterpart Kim. The GOJ intends to raise the abduction issue again at a Japan-DPRK workshop on normalization of bilateral relations. The GOJ remains disinclined to provide any direct energy or other assistance to the DPRK without a breakthrough on this issue. Meanwhile, the families of Japanese abductees met the press in Tokyo to reiterate their opposition to any GOJ move to reward North Korea with aid for the

suspension of its nuclear program."

SCHIEFFER